

locally. A small batch of larvae of one of the hawthorn-feeding species, collected in August from my garden hedge, produced cocoons whose colour, instead of the usual familiar 'withered-leaf' or 'brown-paper' tint, was a pronounced crimson-red. In this there appeared to be no variation; the single exception among them, of the ordinary 'cocoon colour', doubtless belonged to another species. Samples of the mines were kindly determined by Mr S. C. S. Brown as those of *Nepticula ignobilella* Stt. I suppose that the above peculiarity must be well known to our specialists in the family, but have seen no reference to it other than that by Lt.-Col. Emmet (*antea*: 168) who, writing of *Stigmella paradoxa* Frey, states that the cocoon is reddish purple; it may, therefore, be worth pointing out that red or purple cocoons occur in at least one further species. It would be interesting to learn whether this characteristic is found sporadically throughout the group or is confined to one or two species.—A. A. ALLEN, 63 Blackheath Park, S.E.3. 29.x.71.

THE GREEN VAR OF CARDAMINES PUPA (LEP.)—The pupa of the Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines* L.) is often said to be green or brown "dependent on its surroundings". This is undoubtedly wrong. Any resemblance is purely coincidental. I have only bred the species for four years, and had three green pupae in different years. The grown larva quits the stem on which it has spent its youth and seeks a sheltered, firm, upright support which may be flat but is more often convex and narrow, preferably slightly wider than the larval girth. The surrounding herbage is then all green (June/July).

The occasional pupa which remains permanently bright green, unlike any autumnal or winter colour, instead of turning the normal straw-brown, must be a distinct variety, genetically controlled. It would be interesting to breed from a pair of them. I have one green specimen at present, which "escaped" and pupated on the vertical outside edge of a brown cardboard box. — C. F. COWAN, Little Gaddesden House, Berkhamsted, Herts.

PUPATION SITES OF CELASTRINA ARGIOLUS L. (LEP.) — The Holly Blue is usually said to pupate "underneath a leaf". This is quite wrong for the several of each brood that I have watched during the past two years. On turning purple they vacate the home stem on which they have spent their youth, and search for a crevice. A small dark hollow to fit their size appears to suit.

In confinement they will accept the foot of the side of a box if there is overhead cover. A fallen leaf will afford this cover, when "underneath a leaf" could imprecisely describe the position. As a last resort, after perambulating the box, one may return up the jam jar to the original stem and there pupate in a curled-up leaf. Usually this will be on the upper surface, although holly does occasionally provide a few suitable